

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – JULY 19, 2006

Chairman V. Wilson Freeland called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Approval for July 19, 2006 Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda**

- The July 19, 2006 WAC Agenda was adopted without changes.

**Approval for Minutes from June 2006 Meeting**

- The June 2006 Meeting Minutes were adopted without changes.

**2006 – 2007 Waterfowl Season Proposals**

- Presentation given by Mark Hoffman, Associate Director. Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader and Paul Peditto, Director were available for questions through a conference call.
- Director Paul Peditto and the Waterfowl Staff attended the 2006 Summer Atlantic Flyway Council Conference from July 17<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup>. The AFC discussed the migratory bird population data to determine the appropriate hunting seasons and bag limits for presentation to the USFWS.
- Mark Hoffman debriefed the Commission on the Preliminary Maryland Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits for the 2006/2007 Hunting Year [**Attachment A**], which included the AP Migratory Canada Goose Status Report.
- Continuation of the “live decoy” discussion:
  - 1) Director Peditto agreed to provide copies of the proposals regarding regulated shooting areas, live decoys, and release birds to the Commission upon approval of those recommendations by Secretary Franks.
- The public hearing date for the waterfowl seasons and bag limits is August 14<sup>th</sup> at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. There are several reasons for the changed from two public meetings to one:
  - 1) Majority of our comments are received through the on-line forum,
  - 2) It was decided since attendance at these meetings was declining and because of the current budget situation, staff thought the most cost effective solution was to schedule a meeting in the location where the most public attendance occurred.
  - 3) Commissioner Freeland encouraged the Commissioners to attend the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**10-Year Deer Management Plan Update**

- Presentation given by Steve Bittner, Game Mammal Manager for DNR.
- Steve Bittner summarized the tentative schedule for the revised Maryland White-tailed Deer Plan [**Attachment B**].
  - 1) Presentation was given to the WAC about the tentative agenda for completing the 10-Year White-tailed Deer Plan revision,
  - 2) Request was made for one of the WAC members to be represented on the Stakeholders Group,
  - 3) Need to compile a list of potential stakeholders,
  - 4) Need to develop an public opinion survey in August or September-agreed to provide the Commission the methodology behind the survey,
  - 5) Dates in the Attachment B are flexible.
  - 6) Commissioner Edwin Fry agreed to serve as a stakeholder for the 10-Year White-tailed Deer Management Plan revision.

**New Legislative Concept Proposals for 2007 (Commissioners’ Discussion)**

- This presentation was deferred to the August 16, 2006 WAC meeting.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update**

- No Report.

**Natural Resources Police Update**

- No Report.

### **Old Business**

- On July 11<sup>th</sup> Ladd Johnson, Chairman of Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee, emailed the Commission regarding a recent live decoy waterfowl violation that was issued by NRP.
  - 1) Commission members requested copies of the District Court decision on the current live decoy waterfowl violation.
  - 2) Sgt. Shultz clarified that it was States Attorney that decides whether to prosecute a must-appear case.
  - 3) Once again, the Commission stressed the vital need for clarity as to what constitutes a live decoy.
- Chairman pointed out that NRP has not provided the Commission copies of the NRP response to the previously requested Mr. Hahn letter.
- Robert Colona, Furbearer Biologist, is working on the trapper education manual.

### **New Business**

- No Report.

### **Public Comment**

- One emailed public comment was forwarded to the Commission regarding the bylaws of the WAC and how members are appointed, qualifications, and the length of service. An email response was sent.
- Mr. Tyler Johnson, representing the Maryland Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA) asked for the NRP interpretation of a “live decoy”. Currently, the Department is working on the “live decoy” definition but Sgt. Shultz indicated that it’s really up to the individual officer to decide.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M. The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, August 16, 2006 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room, in Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

Members:	W. Freeland, E. Fry, J. Lamp, L. Julio, R. Pascal
Guests:	D. Baker III, K. Fuchs, T. Johnson
Staff:	S. Bittner, K. Blizzard, M. Hoffman, P. Jayne, T. Spencer, G. Shultz, G. Timko
Conference Call	L. Hindman, P. Peditto
Absent:	L. Adams, C. Garner, G. Fratz